

Office of Water Template Language

Data Standards and the Environmental Data Registry

The following text is a starting point for language for contracts, ICRs, and direct field activities that involve the exchange of data with EPA information resources as specified in OW Information Technology and Data Reporting Requirements. This text may need to be modified for specific contracts and ICRs. Questions on modifying this text should be referred to the OW Senior Resource Information Management Officer, Andy Battin.

Data Standards

The exchange of data with EPA or the development/enhancement of an information resource must follow data standards approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The vision for the Environmental Protection Agency's data standards program is to promote the efficient sharing of environmental information among EPA, states, tribes, and other information trading partners through the cooperative development of data standards to foster using consistently defined and formatted data elements and sets of data values. Employing common terminology and common data element definitions enables the eventual integration of databases and promotes public access to commonly defined data from disparate sources. By using data standards, Agency managers and the public can more quickly and accurately assess environmental performance, maximize use of resources, and improve data integrity.

Environmental Data Registry

Information regarding EPA's data standards may be found in The Environmental Data Registry (EDR), which is a comprehensive, authoritative reference for information about the definition, source, and uses of environmental data. The EDR catalogs EPA's data collections and helps locate environmental information of interest. The EDR does not contain the environmental data itself, but rather information that describes the data to make it more meaningful. The EDR is also the major tool supporting the Agency's data standard-setting process. By recording and disseminating data standards, the EDR promotes the efficient sharing of environmental information among EPA, states, tribes, and other information trading partners.

In order to learn more about the Agency's data standards, please refer to the following website: <http://www.epa.gov/edr>.